JOSEPH POPE.
PAMPHLET CASE No. 2

MR. MILLS AND HIS CRITICS.

REPLY TO ONE WHO DOES NOT AGREE WITH HIS VIEWS.

(From The Ottawa "Free Press," April 16th, 1889.)

A few days ago Hon. David Mills received a letter from a gentleman residing in the Niagara peninsula, criticising that gentleman's speech and vote on the proposition to disallow the Jesuit estates bill. Mr. Mills never met his correspondent, but he replied to his letter as follows:—

Dear Sir,—I received your very violent letter in which you tell me you are a Reformer. You must be jesting. Neither the spirit in which it is written nor the sentiments which there find expression could emanate from a Reformer.

Reformers have everywhere opposed legislation imposing special disabilities upon any class of the community on account of their religion. You demand it. Your letter breathes the spirit of the Irish Tory, and so I can't believe you ever were, what in your letter you claim to be—a Reformer.

You seem to think we have been incorporating the Jesuits. That is not so. They were incorporated in Quebec long ago, and I am not aware that anybody objected. They have their colleges and schools of learning in England and Scotland. They have had their mission stations in Ontario, continuously, for over 220 years; they have murdered nobody; they have robbed nobody, nor have they so far as I know endangered our liberty.

Their property in Quebec, which was guaranteed to them at the conquest, was illegally taken from them; and this illegal seizure was confirmed by an act of the legislature, in the days of the Family Compact.

After long delay the government of Quebec has, with the unanimous consent of the legislature,—Protestant and Roman Catholic—paid one-fifth of the present value of the property in full settlement of all claim. This claim and settlement was purely a Quebec question, with which the parliament of Canada had nothing to do. Now, you propose that Toronto shall govern Quebec. As a Reformer, I say

QUEBEC SHALL GOVERN HERSELF.

Provincial rights is the very heart of our system, and you propose to do it violence. You say we ought to interfere, and refuse to Quebec the liberty to pay a long standing claim, because you do not like the creditor. Do you refuse to pay what you owe, to everybody you don't like? You say I am like Cain, because I don't make myself responsible for the Jesuits. You overlook the fact that Cain's responsibility was for what he did himself, and not for the acts of another, who had gone out of the world, before he came in. But pray what has the doctrines of the Jesuits, real or fancied, to do with the justice of their claim in this Quebec case? In a court of justice you would not be allowed to refuse the payment of your debts, because you did not like the person you owed. The days for calling down fire from Heaven on those who do not believe as we do, have gone by. You tell me the Jesuits have been expelled from France, Spain, etc.; and therefore, I ought not to let Quebec pay what she owes. The colporteurs of the Bible society were expelled from Russia, but does that prove the Bible society to be a bad institution? In one respect they are the weakest, because they are the most unpopular body in Christendom! I don't sympathize with the Jesuits. If time permitted I could state my objections to the order. My objections, I hope, have a better foundation than the charges you bring; but I

DECLINE TO PERSECUTE THEM

because I do not agree with them. I don't propose to fight them by having resource to political and religious disabilities. I leave these weapons to the wretches who are not ashamed to employ them. As long as Protestants are honest, fear God, hate oppression, and persecution and permit all classes, Protestant and Roman Catholics, to stand alike, before the law, they will have nothing to fear from Jesuit aggression. It is only where they disgrace the name of freedom by listening to the advice of men, who with the methods and in the spirit of the Evil One, profess to serve the Lord, that our liberties will be in danger. I enclose you a copy of my speech which if you read, may afford you some light, of which you are sorely in need, and expel that spirit of intolerance, which breathes in every line of your letter, and which, wherever found, is an enemy alike to Protestantism and to free institutions.

Yours Respectfully,

DAVID MILLS.

Ottawa, April 13th, '89.